

Dorchester - 590  
Wesley ME Church  
Rt. 50  
Vienna, MD, 21869

1881, 1932

Access: Public

Wesley ME Church stands 20' from the east side of Rt. 50 at Vienna. The present church was newly built to replace the old church (1881) in 1932. Wesley ME Church is part of a rural charge that includes a congregation at Reid's Grove. These churches grew up after the Civil War when there was pressure to remove black members from majority white congregations.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

D - 590

MAGI#1005904808

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wesley M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 50 (Race St. & Harris Avenue)

JLK, 12/20/92

CITY, TOWN

Vienna

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
\_\_\_ STRUCTURE  
\_\_\_ SITE  
\_\_\_ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
\_\_\_ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS  
\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED  
\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
\_\_\_ NO

#### PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE  
\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL  
\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL  
\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT  
\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT  
\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL  
\_\_\_ MILITARY  
\_\_\_ MUSEUM  
\_\_\_ PARK  
\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☒ RELIGIOUS  
\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC  
\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION  
\_\_\_ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees, Wesley M.E. Church  
C/O Rev. Roland W. Dennis

Telephone #: 228-2031

STREET & NUMBER

215 Bradley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD, 21613

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dorchester Co. Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: CL 2

Folio #: 120

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

D-590

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☒ MOVED DATE 1881-1932

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wesley M.E. Church stands 20' from the east side of Rt. 50 at Vienna. The present church was newly built to replace the old church (1881) in 1932. This church measures 40' across the front facade and is 60' in depth. The building faces west. There are 2 concrete steps that lead to double wooden doors that have three horizontal wooden panels with 6 panes of clear glass atop each door. There is an entrance tower in the west gable that only protrudes 4' from the facade of the building. This tower has a rectangular window that is composed of 13 colored glass lights surrounding a single clear glass pane. This window measures 4'. There are two double-rectangular windows in the front facade. These windows are 6' and are composed of 16 colored glass lights surrounding a clear-glass pane (upper) with one clear -glass pane in the bottom. These windows are at either side of the doors. There Two of these identical double windows in the north side of the building and two more identical windows in the south side. An addition has been erected on the east end of the church. This structure is gabled (North-South) and is the Sunday School and Hall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1881-1932

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present church is the successor to an older building that stood near the new building. Wesley M.E. Church is part of a rural charge that includes congregations at Reid's Grove and Salem. These churches grew up after the Civil War. The Methodist Church on the eastern shore of Maryland always had many black members. Conference records in the Maryland Hall of Records show that in some cases black members outnumbered white members in some congregations since the congregations were founded. Most black churches were founded after the Civil War when there was more pressure to remove blacks from congregations that still had white members.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American  
History & Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

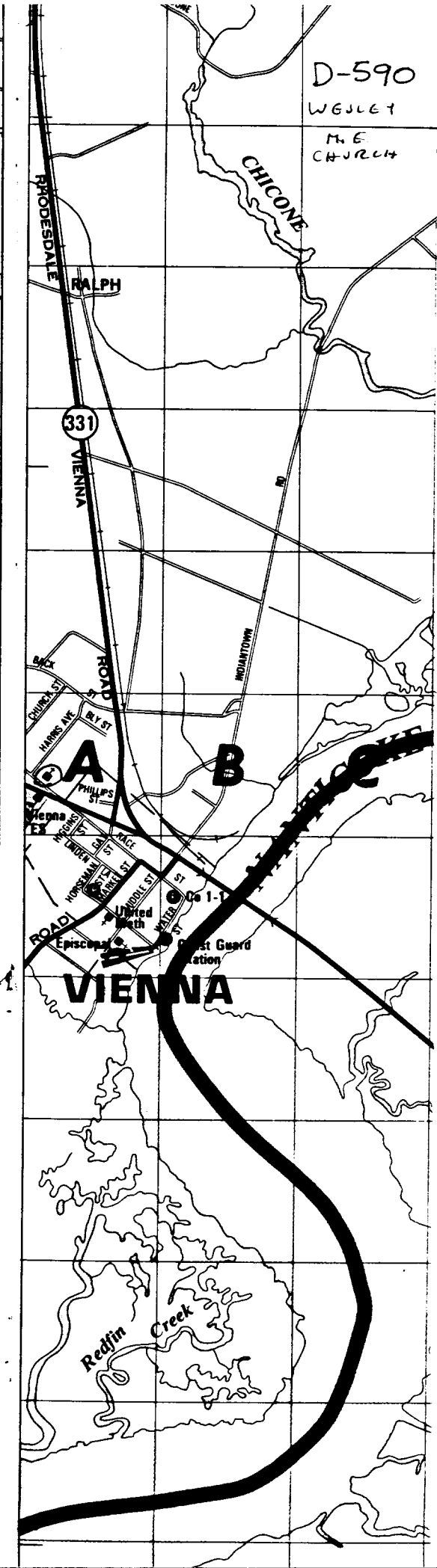
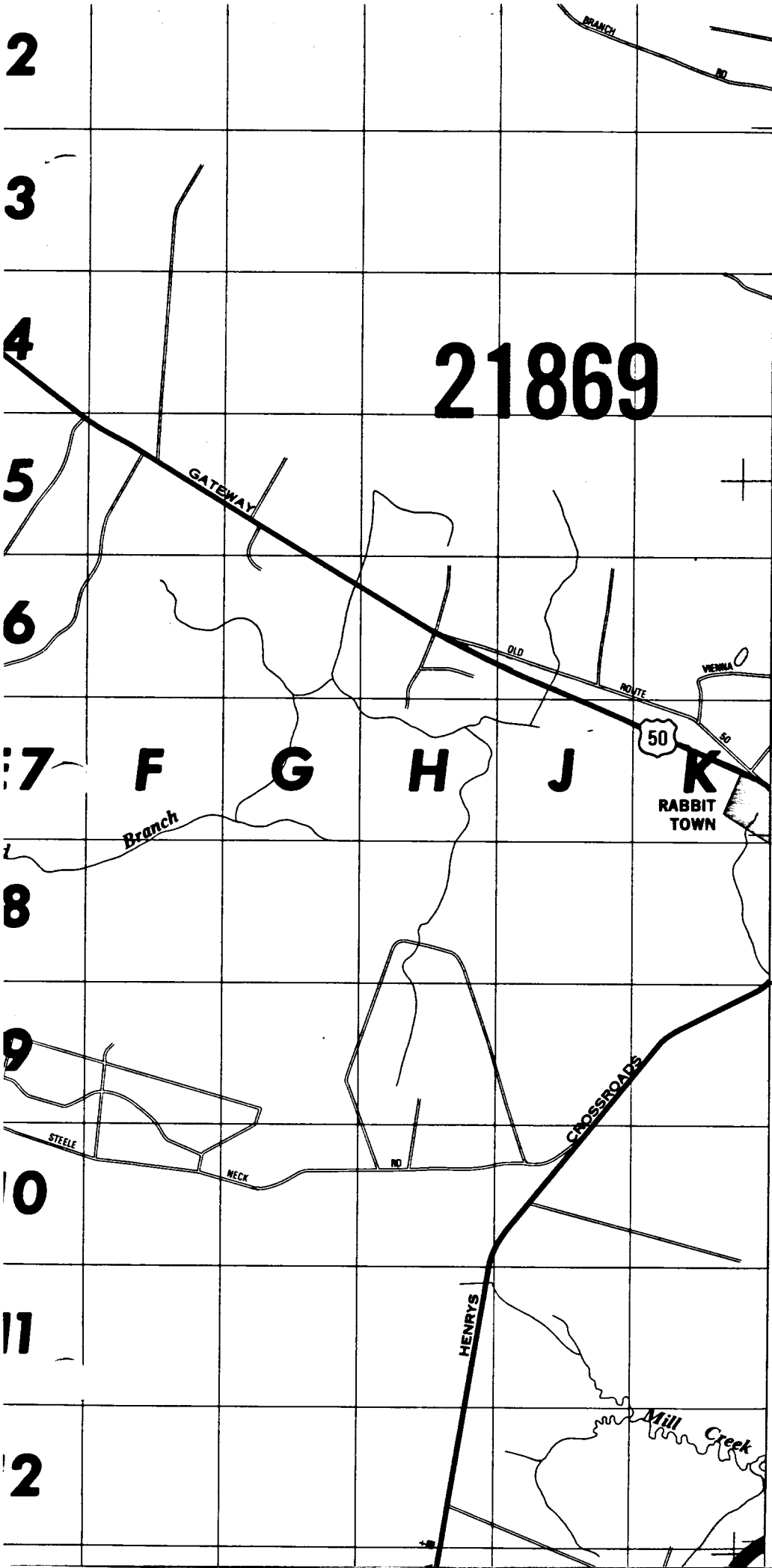
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438









590

47%

Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church  
Vienna, Dorchester County, MD  
Michael Hosford

D-590

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis  
Northwest elevation  
2/81



Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church      D-590  
Vienna, Dorchester County, MD  
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
West elevation  
2/81